

In the Claims

Claims 1, 13, 37, 45, and 58 are amended.

Claims 1-67 remain in the application and are listed as follows:

1. (Amended) A computing device comprising:
one or more processors;
memory operably associated with the one or more processors; and
a context service module loadable in the memory and executable by the one
or more processors to receive context information from one or more context
providers and process the information to determine a current device context by
determining, from the context information, at least one node associated with the
context information and traversing at least a portion of a hierarchical tree structure
of which said at least one node comprises a part.

2. The computing device of claim 1 embodied as a mobile computing
device.

3. The computing device of claim 1 embodied as a desktop computing
device.

4. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the device comprises
cache memory that maintains a current device context.

1 5. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the context service
2 module is configured to automatically receive the context information from the
3 context providers.

4
5 6. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the context service
6 module is configured to automatically receive the context information from the
7 context providers and, as the context of the computing device changes, process the
8 information to determine a new current device context.

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10 7. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the context service
11 module is configured to request context information from one or more of the
12 context providers.

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14 8. The computing device of claim 1, wherein the context service
15 module is configured to provide information concerning a current device context
16 to one or more applications.

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18 9. The computing device of claim 8, wherein the context service
19 module is configured to receive a request from the one or more applications that
20 request the current device context information.

21
22 10. The computing device of claim 1 further comprising a context
23 provider interface associated with the context service module, the context provider
24 interface comprising a common interface that is capable is receiving context
25 information from multiple different context providers.

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2 11. The computing device of claim 1 further comprising one or more
3 application program interfaces (APIs) operably associated with the context service
4 module, the one or more APIs being callable by one or more applications to
5 acquire information concerning the current device context.
6

7 12. The computing device of claim 1 further comprising one or more
8 events that are configured for use by one or more applications so that the
9 applications can register to receive information concerning a current device
10 context responsive to the occurrence of one or more events.
11

12 13. (Amended) A computing device comprising:
13 one or more processors;
14 memory operably associated with the one or more processors; and
15 a location service module loadable in the memory and executable by the
16 one or more processors to receive location information from one or more location
17 providers and process the information to determine a current device location by
18 determining, from the location information, at least one node associated with the
19 location information and traversing at least a portion of a hierarchical tree
20 structure of which said at least one node comprises a part.
21

22 14. The computing device of claim 13 embodied as a mobile computing
23 device.
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1 15. The computing device of claim 13 embodied as a desktop computing
2 device.

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4 16. The computing device of claim 13, wherein the location service
5 module is configured to automatically receive the location information from the
6 location providers.

7
8 17. The computing device of claim 13, wherein the location service
9 module is configured to automatically receive the location information from the
10 location providers and, as the location of the computing device changes, process
11 the information to determine a new current device location.

12
13 18. The computing device of claim 13, wherein the location service
14 module is configured to request location information from one or more of the
15 location providers.

16
17 19. The computing device of claim 13, wherein the location service
18 module is configured to provide information concerning a current device location
19 to one or more applications.

20
21 20. The computing device of claim 13, further comprising a location
22 provider interface associated with the location service module, the location
23 provider interface comprising a common interface that is capable is receiving
24 location information from multiple different location providers.
25

1 21. The computing device of claim 13, further comprising one or more
2 application program interfaces (APIs) operably associated with the location
3 service module, the one or more APIs being callable by one or more applications
4 to acquire information concerning the current device location.

5
6 22. The computing device of claim 13, further comprising one or more
7 events that are configured for use by one or more applications so that the
8 applications can register to receive information concerning a current device
9 location responsive to the occurrence of one or more events.

10
11 23. A computing device comprising:
12 one or more processors;
13 one or more computer-readable media;
14 at least one hierarchical tree structure resident on the media and comprising
15 multiple nodes each of which represents a geographical division of the Earth; and
16 a location service module loadable in the memory and executable by the
17 one or more processors to receive location information from one or more location
18 providers and process the information to determine a current device location that
19 comprises a node of the hierarchical tree structure.

20
21 24. The computing device of claim 23 embodied as a mobile computing
22 device.

23
24 25. The computing device of claim 23 embodied as a desktop computing
25 device.

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2 26. The computing device of claim 23, wherein the location service
3 module is configured to determine the current device location by traversing
4 multiple nodes of the hierarchical tree.

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6 27. The computing device of claim 23 further comprising another
7 hierarchical tree structure resident on the media and comprising multiple nodes
8 each of which represents a physical or logical entity, the location service module
9 being configured to determine the current device location by traversing multiple
10 nodes of the hierarchical trees.

11
12 28. The computing device of claim 23 further comprising:
13 another hierarchical tree structure resident on the media and comprising
14 multiple nodes each of which represents a physical and/or logical entity; and
15 a link between nodes on the different trees,
16 the location service module being configured to determine the current
17 device location by traversing multiple nodes of the hierarchical trees.

18
19 29. The computing device of claim 23, wherein the location service
20 module is configured to provide information concerning a current device location
21 to one or more applications for rendering location-specific services.

22
23 30. The computing device of claim 29, wherein the location service
24 module is configured to receive calls from the one or more applications that
25 request the information concerning the current device location.

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2 31. The computing device of claim 29, wherein the location service
3 module is configured to register one or more applications for notification of
4 information concerning a current device location upon the occurrence of a
5 definable event.

6
7 32. A computing device comprising:
8 one or more processors;
9 one or more computer-readable media;
10 at least one hierarchical tree structure resident on the media and comprising
11 multiple nodes each of which represents a physical or logical entity; and
12 a location service module loadable in the memory and executable by the
13 one or more processors to receive location information from one or more location
14 providers and process the information to determine a current device location that
15 comprises a node of the hierarchical tree structure.

16
17 33. The device of claim 32 embodied as a mobile computing device.

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19 34. The device of claim 32 embodied as a desktop computing device.

20
21 35. The device of claim 32, wherein the hierarchical tree structure
22 comprises an organization specific tree structure that has context only within a
23 particular organization.
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1 36. The device of claim 32 further comprising one or more services
2 associated with one or more nodes of the hierarchical tree, the device comprising
3 an application that is executing on the one or more processors to traverse the
4 hierarchical tree to located the one or more service.

5
6 37. (Amended) A location-aware computing system comprising:
7 one or more computing devices;
8 each computing device having a software architecture comprising:
9 a location provider interface that is configured to receive location
10 information;

11 a location service module communicatively associated with the
12 location provider interface and configured to receive the location information from
13 the multiple different location providers and process the information to ascertain a
14 current device location by determining, from the location information, at least one
15 node associated with the location information and traversing at least a portion of a
16 hierarchical tree structure of which said at least one node comprises a part; and

17 one or more application program interfaces (API) or events
18 associated with the location service module and defining a mechanism through
19 which information concerning a current device location can be provided to one or
20 more applications that are configured to provide location-specific services.

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22 38. The location-aware computing system of claim 37, wherein at least
23 one of the one or more computing devices comprises a mobile computing device.
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1 39. The location-aware computing system of claim 37, wherein at least
2 one of the one or more computing devices comprises a desktop computing device.

3
4 40. The location-aware computing system of claim 37, wherein the
5 location provider interface is configured to receive location information from
6 multiple different location providers.

7
8 41. The location-aware computing system of claim 37, wherein the
9 location provider interface is configured to receive location information from
10 multiple different location providers, the location service module being configured
11 to poll one or more of the location providers so that the polled location provider
12 can provide location information to the location provider interface.

13
14 42. The location-aware computing system of claim 37 further
15 comprising:

16 one or more computer-readable media; and

17 a hierarchical tree structure resident on the media and comprising multiple
18 nodes each of which represent geographical divisional of the Earth, the location
19 service module being configured to process the information to ascertain a current
20 device location that comprises one node on the hierarchical tree structure.

21
22 43. The location-aware computing system of claim 42, wherein the
23 location service module is configured to ascertain a current device location by
24 traversing the hierarchical tree structure to a root of the tree structure.
25

1 44. The location-aware computing system of claim 42 further
2 comprising one or more additional hierarchical tree structures resident on the
3 media and comprising multiple nodes each of which represent physical or logical
4 entities, the additional hierarchical trees each having at least one node that is
5 linked with the first-mentioned hierarchical tree structure, the location service
6 module being configured to ascertain a current device location by traversing at
7 least one of the additional hierarchical trees and the first-mentioned hierarchical
8 tree.

9
10 45. (Amended) A computer-implemented method of determining a
11 computing device context comprising:

12 receiving, with a computing device, information that pertains to a current
13 context of the device;

14 processing the information on and with the device to ascertain the current
15 context of the computing device by determining, from the information, at least one
16 node associated with the information and traversing at least a portion of a
17 hierarchical tree structure of which said at least one node comprises a part.

18
19 46. The computer-implemented method of claim 45, wherein said
20 receiving comprises receiving the information with a mobile computing device.

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22 47. The computer-implemented method of claim 45, wherein said
23 receiving comprises receiving the information with a hand-held computing device.
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1 48. The computer-implemented method of claim 45, wherein said
2 receiving comprises receiving the information with a desktop computing device.

3
4 49. The computer-implemented method of claim 45, wherein the current
5 context is the device location.

6
7 50. The computer-implemented method of claim 49, wherein the
8 receiving of the information comprises receiving information from multiple
9 different location providers.

10
11 51. The computer-implemented method of claim 50, wherein the
12 information that is received from the multiple different location providers is
13 received in different forms.

14
15 52. The computer-implemented method of claim 50, wherein the
16 receiving of the information comprises receiving the information through a
17 common interface.

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19 53. The computer-implemented method of claim 45, wherein the
20 receiving of the information comprises receiving information from multiple
21 different context providers.

22
23 54. The computer-implemented method of claim 53, wherein the
24 information that is received from the multiple different location providers is
25 received in different forms.

1
2 55. The computer-implemented method of claim 53, wherein the
3 receiving of the information comprises receiving the information through a
4 common interface.

5
6 56. The computer-implemented method of claim 45 further comprising
7 receiving a request from an application for information that pertains to the current
8 context of the mobile computing device and returning at least some information to
9 the application.

10
11 57. The computer-implemented method of claim 45 further comprising
12 receiving at least one event registration from one or more applications that pertains
13 to an event for which the application is to receive information pertaining to the
14 current context of the computing device, and returning information pertaining to
15 the current context of the computing device to the one or more applications
16 responsive to the occurrence of an event.

17
18 58. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media having computer-
19 readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computing device, cause
20 the computing device to:

21 receive information that pertains to a current location of the device, the
22 information being received from multiple different location providers; and

23 process the information to map the information to a node of a hierarchical
24 tree structure that comprises multiple nodes that represent either (1) geographical
25 divisions of the Earth or (2) physical or logical entities; and

1 traverse the hierarchical tree structure to ascertain the current device
2 location.

3
4 59. A computer-implemented method of determining the location of a
5 hand-held, mobile computing device comprising:

6 maintaining a hierarchical tree structure on the mobile computing device,
7 the tree structure comprising multiple nodes each of which represent geographical
8 divisions of the Earth;

9 receiving information from multiple different location providers that
10 describe aspects of a current device location;

11 processing the information with the mobile device to ascertain a node on
12 the tree structure that likely constitutes a current device location; and

13 traversing at least one other node of the tree structure to ascertain additional
14 location information that is associated with the current device location.
15

16 60. The computer-implemented method of claim 59, wherein:
17 the maintaining of the hierarchical tree structure comprises maintaining
18 multiple hierarchical tree structures that are linked with one another; and
19 the traversing comprises traversing the multiple hierarchical tree structures
20 to ascertain the additional location information.
21

22 61. The computer-implemented method of claim 60, wherein one tree
23 structure comprises a unique representation of a physical or logical entity.
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1 62. The computer-implemented method of claim 59 further comprising
2 receiving a request from one or more applications for information that pertains to a
3 current device location and providing the one or more applications with the
4 information that pertains to the current device location.

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6 63. The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the
7 receiving of the request comprises receiving a call to an application program
8 interface (API).

9
10 64. The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the
11 receiving of the request comprises receiving an event registration.

12
13 65. The computer-implemented method of claim 62 further comprising
14 applying a security policy to the information that pertains to the current device
15 location before providing the information to the one or more applications.

16
17 66. The computer-implemented method of claim 59 further comprising
18 before processing the information to ascertain a node, resolving any conflicts that
19 might exist between information that is received from different location providers.

20
21 67. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable
22 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computing device, cause the
23 computing device to:
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1 maintain or access a hierarchical tree structure on or with the computing
2 device, the tree structure comprising multiple nodes each of which represent
3 geographical divisions of the Earth;

4 receive information from multiple different location providers that describe
5 aspects of a current device location;

6 process the information with the device to ascertain a node on the tree
7 structure that likely constitutes a current device location;

8 traverse at least one other node of the tree structure to ascertain additional
9 location information that is associated with the current device location;

10 receive one or more calls from one or more applications for information
11 that pertains to a current device location, the applications being configured to
12 render location-specific information; and

13 supply at least some information that pertains to the current device location
14 to the one or more applications.